



L. Pelner file

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

August 17, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Louis Pelner
616 Rugby Road
Brooklyn, New York 11226

Dear Dr. Pelner:

Thank you for your letter of September 31st which was delayed by being forwarded back to New York.

I am enclosing some of the material that you requested.

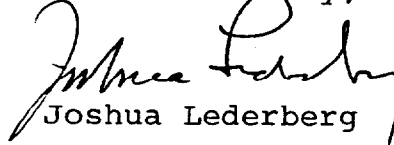
As to the impact of religious background and training, that is a problematical question. The fact that my father was a rabbi and committed to the study of the Torah certainly leant an atmosphere of respect for literary and intellectual expression at home; I also have to give very considerable credit to the public library and public school systems of the City of New York for giving me enormous opportunity and encouragement.

I will let you draw your own conclusions further on this topic from some of the remarks long since committed to print that are enclosed.

If you can spare a copy I would like to see a reprint of your piece on Metchnikoff and I will also share it with my colleague Jim Hirsch who has been biographically interested both in Metchnikoff and now still more seriously in Paul Ehrlich.

Finally, I wonder if you have seen a remarkable survey by S. M. Lipset, referenced in the attachment.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

P.S. In the next month or two, prints of my installation address and 1st annual report as President will be ready. These are fairly confessional. I will ask our Public Information Office to send them to you.